

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 01102 072312Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 /022 W

----- 108285

O R 072225Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3775

INFO USIA WASHDC

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FOR NIEBURG ARA-LA/PAF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, BR

SUBJECT: BRIEF REVIEW BRAZILIAN PRESS

REF: NIEBURG-COPMANN TELECON FEB. 7

1. FOLLOWING IS RUNDOWN ON LEADING BRAZILIAN DAILIES:

A. BRASILIA -- CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, CIRCULATION ABOUT 25,000; CONSERVATIVE; PRO-GOB ON DOMESTIC MATTERS; ERRATIC ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES -- SOMETIMES PRO-AMERICAN, SOMETIMES NOT, BUT NEARLY ALWAYS IN LINE WITH GOB FOREIGN POLICY. JORNAL DE BRASILIA, CIRCULATION ABOUT 18,000; ONE OF THE MOST INDEPENDENT LINES OF ANY MEDIUM IN BRAZIL AND MOST INFLUENTIAL IN BRASILIA; BASICALLY PRO-US BUT CRITICAL OF USG POLICIES AND POSITIONS ON MANY ISSUES SUCH AS MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, BILATERAL TRADE, ETC.

B. RIO -- JORNAL DO BRASIL, CIRCULATION ABOUT 180,000; THOUGHTFUL, CONSERVATIVE, COMPREHENSIVE; BASICALLY FRIENDLY TO US BUT OPENLY CRITICAL ON SOME ISSUESM O GLOBO, CIRCULATION ABOUT 230,000; CONSERVATIVE; PRO-GOVERNMENT.

C. SAO PAULO -- O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, CIRCULATION ABOUT 200,000; MOST INFLUENTIAL AND MOST INDEPENDENT PAPER IN BRAZIL; OFTEN VERY CRITICAL OF GOB POLICIES AND

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 01102 072312Z

ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS; STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST; PRO-US

ON MANY ISSUES BUT NOT THOSE WHICH TEND TO SHOW US ACCOMMODATION WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO -- CIRCULATION ABOUT 200,000; LIBDAL REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF US FOREIGN POLICY; BEGAN REGULAR EDITORIAL PAGE ONLY THREE MONTHS AGO; HAS RECENTLY BECOME MORE CRITICAL OF GOB'S HANDLING OF DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS. (ONLY PAPER TO PUBLISH SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL CRITICIZING OFFICIAL VERSION OF HERZOG DEATH.)

2. DETENTE. ESTADO DE SAO PAULO IS STROHGLY OPPOSED, VIEWS DETENTE AS SELL-OUT OF DEFENSES OF THE WEST (WHICH INCLUDES BRAZIL). JORNAL DO BRASIL BELIEVES IN LONG-RANGE AIMS OF DETENTE BUT THINKS US SHOULD BE MORE FORCEFUL IN CURRENT CONFRONTATIONS, E.G., ANGOLA. OTHER FOUR PAPERS HAVE NO CLEARLY DEFINED EDITORIAL POSITIONS.

3. SALT. CORREIO BRAZILIENSE SUPPORTS CONCEPT OF SALT. ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, JORNAL DO BRASIL AND O GLOBO ALSO SUPPORT CONCEPT OF SALT, BUT FEEL US IS MAKING TOO MANY UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO AND JORNAL DE BRASILIA HAVE NO CLEARLY DEFINED EDITORIAL POSITION.

4. CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. ALL SIX PAPERS ARE FIRMLY OPOSED. ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND JORNAL DO BRASIL VITRIOLICALLY OPPOSED TO ANY SOVIET-BACKED INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. O GLOBO IS MORE RESTRAINED (BECAUSE OF GOB RECOGNITION OF LUANDA GOVERNMENT), BUT IS STILL HARSHLY CRITICAL. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO NOTES THAT CUBAN INTERVENTION WILL MAKE CUBAN RE-ENTRY IN OAS MORE DIFFICULT. ESTADO AND JORNAL DO BRASIL HAVE STRONGLY ATTACKED THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFIARS FOR RECOGNIZING THE MPLA BECAUSE OF ITS COMMUNIST SUPPORT.

5. ATTITUDE TOWARD THIRD WORLD. ESTADO DE SAO PAULO REDICULES GOB'S "THIRD-WORLDSM" IN FOREIGN POLICY; SEES IT IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND OPPORTUNISTIC. JORNAL DE BRASILIA SUPPORTS CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD; BELIEVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 01102 072312Z

BRAZIL SHOULD SIDE WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN INTERNATIONAL AFFIRS. JORNAL DO BRASIL GENERALLY SUPPORTS BRAZIL'S PRESENT THIRD WORLD ORIENTATION ALTHOUGH OCCASIONAL EDITORIALS QUESTION CERTAIN ASPECTS OF IT. O GLOBO, FOLHA DE SAO PAULO AND CORREIO BRAZILIENSE SUPPORT GOB. THEY HOLD THAT BRAZIL IS HALFWAY BETWEEN THIRD AND FIRST WORLDS AND SHOULD NOT COMMIT SELF FULLY TO EITHER.

6. TRADE. ALL SIX APPERS MAINTAIN THAT SINCE BRAZIL HAS A CONSTANT UNFAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE WITH THE US, THE LATTER SHOULD MAKE FURTHER REALLY IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS TO BRAZILIAN EXPORTS. THESE PAPERS REPORTED FAILY FAITHFULLY THE MISSION'S VIEWS ON THE ADVANTAGES OF THE GSP, BUT SEVERAL POINTED OUT THE SEEMINGLY CONTRADICOTORY POLICY OF THE US TOWARD ITEMS OF LEATHER SHOES AN HANDBAGS, TEXTLES AND CASTOR OIL, AS EXAMPLES. THERE WAS NO ELATION OVER THE GSP, BUT RATHER "OKAY, LET'S SEE WHAT IT WILL REALLY DO" WITH SOME TONES OF SKEPTICISM.

7. MULTINATIONALS. JORNAL DE BRASILI TENDS TO HAVE AN ANTI-MULTINATIONAL ATTITUDE, SAYING THAT THOSE BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS MUST BE WATCHED WITH GREAT CARE. JORNAL DO BRASIL ON THE OTHER HAND SHOWS AN ENLIGHTENED OUTLOOK AND GENERALLY SEEMS TO SUPPORT SUCH INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY. ESTADO DO SAO PAULO IS BASICALLY PRO-MULTINATIONALS, BUT IS QUICK TO PONT OUT THEIR DRAWBACKS. O GLOBO AND CORREIO BRAZILENSE BOTH STAND IN FAVOR OF MULTINATIONLS, FOLLOWING THE GOB LINE FAIRLY CLOSELY, THE FORMER WITH SOME STRENGTH AND THE LATTER RATHER BLANDLY.

8. EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE SCHISM. ALL SIX PAPERS BELIEVE CONGRESSIONAL-ADMINISTRATIVE SPLIT NEGATIELY INFLUENCING US ABILITY TO CARRY OUT FOREIGN POLICY. O ESTADO DE SSAO PAULO IS MOST EMPHATIC, WHILE THE SIX PAPERS CONSIDER US STILL MOST POWERFUL AND LEADING NATION OF THE WEST, THEY SEE IT AS BEING WEAKENED BY ITS UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS. GENERAL RESENTMENT ABOUT US FOREIGN POLICY IS THAT LTAM IS ALWAYS VIEWED AS HAVING LOW PRIORITY FOR US.

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PAGE 04 BRASIL 01102 072312Z

9. NUCLEAR ENERGY. ALL PAPERS BELIEVE THAT IN VIEW OF BRAZIL'S STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY SHORTABE, GOB WAS FULLY JISTIFIED IN REACHING NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH WEST GERMANY AND SHOULD STRIVE FOR INDEPENDENCE IN ITS NUCLEAR POLICY.

10. FOR OTHER MAJOR ITEMS OF PRESS REACTION, PLEASE REFER TO THE MEDIA REACTION REPORTS FILE NEAR-DAILY FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLICIES, PRESS COMMENTS, NEWSPAPERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRASIL01102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760048-0016
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760272/aaaacbl.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <30 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEF REVIEW BRAZILIAN PRESS
TAGS: SOPN, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006